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Extracts from the Report of the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. James Braidwood) to the Committee for Managing the London Fire Engine Establishment, on the Fires which occurred during the year 1842.

[*Communicated by Thomas Tooke, Esq., F.R.S., V.P.; and read before the Statistical Society of London, 20th November,* 1843.]

THE fires still continue to increase, the number being 73 over any preceding year, and 213 over the average of the last nine years. It will, however, be observed, that the "Totally destroyed" have not increased, being the same as last year, and three under the average of the nine preceding years.

While, however, there has been an increase in the number of fires this year of upwards of 66 per cent. over 1833, and an addition to the brigade establishment of one land and one floating engine, and many of the others have been much improved both in power and ease of movement, still there has been no increase in the number of firemen; the number at present employed is 23 under the complement proposed in 1833, without including the Victuallers, Dissenters, and Scottish Union Offices, who have joined since.

The establishment has received efficient assistance from the police, who, being provided with cards with the list of stations, &c., have been prompt in the discovery of incipient fires, and have given calls at the stations with alacrity.

The firemen have continued to conduct themselves with attention, promptitude, and skill.

The engines and apparatus are in excellent order.

The number of fires from 1st January, to 31st December, 1842, are as follows:—

Fires at which the premises were totally destroyed	24	
,, ,, considerably damaged . . .	224	
,, ,, slightly damaged	521	
		769
Alarm caused by chimneys on fire		82
False alarms		61
Total . .		912

The following statement does not include chimneys on fire known to be so, but only such as were said to be fires.

Abstract of Fires in London for Ten Years.

Year.	Lives Lost.	Totally Destroyed	Considerably Damaged	Slightly Damaged	Gas.	No Gas.	Total Fires.	False Alarms.	Chimney Alarms.	Total Alarms.	Total of Fires and Alarms.
1833	6	31	135	292	96	362	458	59	75	134	592
1834	3	28	116	338	130	352	482	57	112	169	651
1835	11	31	125	315	172	299	471	66	106	172	643
1836	14	33	134	397	195	369	564	66	126	192	756
1837	[illegible]	22	122	357	203	298	501	82	134	216	717
1838	[illegible]	33	152	383	228	340	568	79	108	187	755
1839	25	17	165	402	250	334	584	70	101	171	755
1840	25	26	204	451	236	445	681	84	98	182	863
1841	11	24	234	438	300	396	696	67	92	159	855
1842	20	24	224	521	331	438	769	61	82	143	912
	152	269	1611	3894	2141	3633	5774	691	1034	1725	7499

List of Fires where the Premises were Totally Destroyed, 1842.

Date.	Situation.	No. of Buildings Destroyed at each Fire.	Remarks.
Jan. 5 .	Loundes-square, Knightsbridge.	1	Coach-house and stable, used as a carpenter's workshop; two miles from nearest station.
Feb. 15 .	Kent-terrace, Old Kent-road.	1	No water laid down.
Feb. 18 .	53, High-street, Wapping	1	Carpenter's workshop.
Feb. 28 .	Doughty-street, Lambeth-walk.	1	Destroyed by an explosion.
March 1 .	Tudor-street, Blackfriars .	1	Printer's workshop; water 20 to 30 minutes late
March 26.	16, Ferry-road, Mill Wall .	3	A cooper's workshop, and two very small cottages, principally timber, about two miles from nearest station
April 17 .	Cross-street, Bermondsey .	1	A small timber shed for making lamp black.
April 19 .	Glass-yard, Woolwich. . .	1	A timber building used as a stable and coal-shed; seven miles from nearest station.
May 4 .	11, Lower Phoenix-street, Hackney-road.	1	A small timber building used as a carpenter's workshop.
June 10 .	35, Chalcroft-terrace, New Cut, Lambeth.	1	Completely on fire, and doors broken open by mob before the arrival of engines.
June 14 .	Ilford, Essex.	1	Carpenter's workshop, timber; seven miles from nearest station.
June 30 .	13, Bermondsey Wall . .	8	This fire was extended by two immense warehouses filled with hoops, taking fire, and as water sufficient to supply one engine on the land side could not be had, it was thought better to preserve the valuable and extensive warehouses rather than the smaller buildings at a greater distance from the river, as the floats could not protect both.
July 12 .	4, Union-place, Well-street, Oxford-street.	1	A small building used as a stable and warehouse; water 25 minutes late.
July 16 .	High-street, Camberwell .	1	A small building used as a wheelwright's shop.
Aug. 6 .	35, White-street, Borough .	1	The house fell down before it was seriously injured by fire.
Oct. 30 .	Pay-bar, Lavender-place, Wandsworth-road.	1	A timber building with a thatched roof, used as a warehouse; three miles from nearest station.
Nov. 4 .	154, Upper Thames-street .	1	A wholesale druggists; 15 to 20 quart bottles of ether took fire, and the whole was in a blaze in 10 minutes.
Nov. 5 .	Adjoining Eastern Counties Railway.	1	A small timber building not worth 10*l.*
Nov. 6 .	Teddington, above Richmond	1	12 miles from nearest station.
Nov. 16 .	8, Kent-street, Borough .	1	A brushmaker's workshop 11 feet by 18.
Nov. 18 .	46, Lambeth-walk . . .	1	Doors broken open before the arrival of engines, and water 40 minutes late.
Nov. 18 .	36, Paradise-street, Rotherhithe.	1	Water 30 minutes late.
Nov. 19 .	Bromley New Town, Middlesex.	1	A small timber building used for making naptha.
Dec. 4 .	26, Salisbury-place, Locksfields, Walworth.	1	Completely on fire, and doors broken open before arrival of engines.
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